

# PATIENT'S DEATH IN SAVAR Relatives clash with hospital staff, 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Relatives clashed with the staff of a Savar hospital in Dhaka injuring at least 10 people from both the sides following the death of their patient yesterday.

The attendants alleged Moushumi Akter, 22, who had a caesarian section and gave birth to a baby boy, died due to negligence of the authorities of Arif General Hospital and Child Care.

Mousumi, wife of Md Imran Hosen of Savar's Genda, was admitted to the hospital on Friday, said Parul Akter Shanta, director (admin) of the hospital.

The operation was conducted by Dr Shahana Parveen Sweetly successfully but the mother's condition was critical, she said.

Dr Sweety, who was hired to conduct the surgery, said she asked the hospital authorities to transfer the patient, whose blood pressure was not normal, to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as there was no adequate facility there.

But the authorities did not do so, she alleged. When repeatedly asked about the allegations, the director completely avoided those saying, "This kind of patient is treated in the hospital but she died unfortunately."

Dr Amzad Hosen, residential medical officer of Savar Upazila Health Complex, said a three-member committee comprising its doctors was formed to investigate the incident, which will submit the report within seven working days.



People forced to cross on foot the first Buriganga bridge as hundreds of drivers and local commuters blocked it since yesterday morning protesting a hike in the bridge toll rates.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## BNP again calls for talks over polls-time govt

Disappointed over  
Ashraf's remark  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing frustration over Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam's remark on Friday that the next parliamentary election will be held under the ruling party, BNP yesterday reiterated its call for holding dialogue over the framework of a polls-time neutral government.

"The country's people as well as BNP are disappointed... We are afraid that the government plans to arrange another January-5 styled voter-less polls," Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office in the capital.

He said holding a free, fair and inclusive election was the only way to overcome the political crisis Bangladesh was going through.

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## ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS IN SYLHET DIVISION 75 teachers get training

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar



englishinschools

Teachers sometimes fail to deliver English lessons in the expected manner due to a lack of good techniques and experience, said speakers at the inaugural session of the English in Schools (EIS) programme yesterday.

The Daily Star and telecom operator Robi Axiata Ltd are jointly organised the training programme for 200 English teachers of secondary schools in four divisions through grammatical and communicative exercises to stimulate English language learning among secondary school students in the country.

Around 75 English teachers from 25 secondary schools of Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, and Sylhet districts participated in the daylong session at Nirvana Inn Hotel in Sylhet city.

The trainers also urged the teachers to encourage students to read the weekly page "English in Schools" of The Daily Star published every Monday.

Meanwhile, the participants urged the trainers to include contents, relevant to the academic curriculum, in the weekly page.

The trainers demonstrated different techniques to inspire and engage students effectively in regular classes. The daylong event also included presentations, opinion sharing, and question-answer sessions.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, consultant of the EIS programme and former managing editor of The Daily Star, said, "We are trying to kindle the interest of both teachers and students in English through this programme."

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Participants at English in Schools (EIS) at a Sylhet city hotel yesterday. Inset from left, Shireen Hasan, founder executive director, X-cel, Institute of Interactive Learning; Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, consultant of EIS; Jahangir Alam, Sylhet district education officer; and Matilul Islam Nowshad, chief corporate and people officer of Robi Axiata Ltd, at the event. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



## Cancer diagnosis yet to reach advanced level

Say pathologists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's cancer diagnosis facilities have yet to reach the advanced level available in some neighbouring countries, said pathologists at a discussion yesterday.

A crucial part of modern cancer diagnosis known as histopathology, which involves microscopic examination of tissues to detect specific types of cancer has not been practiced much in the country, they said.

A lack of research in the field, scarcity of state-of-the-art technology and expertise are the main reasons why histopathology has not been developed, they added.

The views came at the logo launching ceremony of "The 3rd SAARC Academy of Cytopathology and Histopathology Conference" at the capital's Kurmitola Golf Club.

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## NEW TOLL RATE FOR FIRST BURIGANGA BRIDGE

# Commuters suffer as protesters block street

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of three-wheeler auto-rickshaw drivers and locals who use non-motorised transports blocked for the second time in eight days vehicular movement on the first China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge since yesterday morning protesting a steep increase in toll rates.

The rates came into effect yesterday on six bridges, the first Buriganga, Meghna-Gomoti, Dhaleswari, Ghorashal, Kanchan and Bhairab, to bring uniformity across the country, said Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Additional Chief Engineer Aftab Ahmed.

The July 25 blockade prompted the RHD to postpone collecting the higher toll, initiated the day before on the bridge over the Buriganga river connecting Hasnabad and other areas of south Keraniganj with Postogola, a trade, business and transportation hub in the capital.

The postponentment was meant to manage the day's agitation, said Aftab. Just as in the first day, thousands of people yesterday had to cross the bridge on foot.

"This time, we are apprehensive, the siege may be prolonged as there is no effective move in sight to resolve the matter immediately," said Shyampur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sheikh Md Abdur Razzaq.

A tremendous tailback is apprehended to further deteriorate the capital's traffic congestion as incoming vehicles will now use the toll-free Babubazar bridge (second Buriganga bridge), he said.

Those bound for Narayanganj,

Chittagong and Sylhet from other districts used to pay the nominal toll and avoid traffic, he said.

The OC said the worst-affected were the low-income group, auto-rickshaw drivers, local commuters depending on bicycles and rickshaws, and van and pushcart operators, who formerly did not have to pay any toll.

A commuter going to the capital and coming back on a bicycle every day has to spend Tk 20 or per month Tk 600, said Kabir Hossain, who lives in Hasnabad and works in Postogola.

An auto-rickshaw has to pay Tk 25 per crossing while cargo vehicles have to pay eight times the former rate.

"The issue might even call for the intervention of the prime minister for a resolution as the local lawmaker's efforts to sort it out with the communications minister did not yield the desired result," said an official requesting anonymity.

Secretary to the road transport and bridges ministry, MAN Siddique, said the new rates were to enforce a countrywide uniform policy but it would be reviewed in the case of this bridge in consideration of the nature of traffic.

The local lawmaker, Nasrul Hamid Bipu, also state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, has talked to him and will write to the communications ministry in a day or two justifying exempting this bridge, said Siddique.

"We will soon carry out a survey on the nature of traffic using this bridge... In case it

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ENCLAVE EXCHANGE

## Khaleda happy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its chairperson, Khaleda Zia, yesterday expressed happiness over the exchange of the 162 enclaves inside Bangladesh and India and welcomed the country's new citizens from the around 52,000 inhabitants who tasted freedom for the first time in 68 years.

"Today (yesterday) is a glorious day in our life... it is a historical incident," BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office in the capital.

"When the clock struck a minute past midnight yesterday (Friday)... flags of the two countries were hoisted there as the enclave people

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## 'The Unfinished Memoirs' of Bangabandhu published in Japanese language

CRY DESK

Prestigious publishing house in Japan, The Ashahi Shoten Publishers, has published "The Unfinished Memoirs" of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Japanese language.

Kazuhiro Watanabe, chief programme director, Bangla Section, Radio Japan, NHK, who translated the book, has arrived in Dhaka to hand over the 600-page Japanese version to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office, said a foreign ministry press release.

Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and Bangladeshi Ambassador to Japan Masud Bin Momen are expected to attend the programme today.

Watanabe has also published "Amar Bangladesh", Bangla translation of "Bangladeshu tono Deai" by late Takashi Hayakawa and "Rokto O Kada 1971, Bangla translation of "Chi to Doro to" by Tadamasu Fukiura.

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